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Family Structure Impact on Children

Before reaching the age of 18, a majority of children are likely to spend a considerable amount of their childhoods in a one parent home. This increase of children who do not live with two married parents makes it important to understand how changes in family structure influence important areas of children’s lives. Some such areas I would like to further research is, does a family’s structure impact the educational outcomes, and sexual activity of children while growing up?

Thirty-five percent of children younger than twenty-one today are raised by single parents (Anne E. Casey Foundation), there is no doubt that there is a difference in family life in one that has both parent roles and one that only has one. Personally growing up in a house hold with both parents it was different then many of my friends lives who only grew up with one parent. The views from both homes differ dramatically, from a child’s education to their morals they should express. In exploring this topic using journals, articles, along with statistics I would like to see the impact that is made educational on children growing up in different family structures as if how far one furthers their education along with how their conduct is in the education system, such as behavior. From observations the supervision of children with a single parent is harder to obtain then with two parent roles in place making it easier to have misconduct then it would if both roles were filled.

I would really like to look deeper into the length of education and the teen pregnancy that happens from different family structures. By deeper I merely mean statistically as well as have creditable sources that have done studies in both fields with children of single parents and children of parents that have both roles in place (father and mother). In mention both parent roles, I’m looking for parents that have remained married and parents that got remarried. Many people have different views of how far the length of education should be measured but specifically looking for children that completed their way through college or that are in college and the affect the parent roles have had on them throughout the education years; such as smoking, illegal drugs use, and alcohol consumption. Along with that the statistical rate of teen pregnancy from both sides.

In writing about this topic I hope to open some eyes on how different family structures can affect a child for the rest of his or her life whether it is the amount of education one should obtain to if one decides to bring another life into this world at a young age. From the moment one individual has a child they are imprinted in them, that child will follow from example and learn from them. Coming from different family structures will always have different effects on different people just depends on the environment they are put in as well.

The audience that this research topic will pertain to is single parents, parents that are together, and people deciding on having a child or thinking about starting a family. This is because it should show them the affect and statistics that different family structures have on the children from different sources and their studies they have done on the different situations of family style. In all they will be informed that the difference in lifestyle is crucial to the child’s future and the realization that, that impact will affect that child the rest of his or her life.

Work cited

"Kids Count Data Center." *Children in Single-parent Families by Race*. Anne E. Casey Foundation, n.d. Web. 13 Dec. 2012.